Engaging of Pigmy Deposit Collectors by banks

470. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several PSU banks engaged Pigmy Deposit Collectors for carrying out door-to-door collection of small deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating salient details of terms of their appointment by banks;

(c) whether the long pending demands by these Pigmy Deposit Collectors for conferring on them regular employees' status and related benefits by their respective employing banks has been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment passed on 13th February, 2001;

(d) if so, whether banks have since honoured the judgment of the Apex Court;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 35 banks (Public Sector Banks/Private Sector Banks) are currently engaging pygmy/tiny deposit collectors. There are about 11000 such collectors engaged by these banks. As per this Scheme, these collectors are paid as under:

- minimum fall back wages of Rs.750/- p.m. with a minimum deposit collection of Rs.7,500/- p.m.;
- 2% commission for collection in excess of Rs. 7,500/-;
- conveyance of Rs. 50/- p.m. upto Rs. 10,000 collected while Rs. 100/- p.m. beyond Rs.10,000 collected;
- the collectors cannot claim provident fund/pension. However, gratuity is payable @ 15 days commission for each year of service rendered.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, *vide* their judgment dated 13.02.01, have upheld the award of the Hon'ble Industrial Tribunal, Hyderabad as amended by the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Accordingly, the tiny/pygmy deposit collectors are paid by banks as per details given in reply to paras-(a) and (b) above.

However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also acknowledged that there is no question of the deposit collectors being paid the same pay scales, allowances and other service conditions of the regular employees of banks.

(d) to (f) All banks have implemented the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Permission of FIPB to sell manufactured goods

†471. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether foreign companies like Reebok and Adidas have the approval of FIPB (Foreign Investment Promotion Board) to sell their manufactured goods in the market on their own;

(b) if so, whether their share percentage stake is below 51 per cent;

(c) if not, the action taken by Government so far to stop their illegal commercial activities; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Prior to 10.02.2006, FIPB had granted approvals to foreign companies to sell their manufactured good on case to case basis. After 10.02.2006, the proposals of "single brand" retail trade are governed by Press Note 3 of 2006 which restricts FDI to 51% subject to conditions mentioned in the Press Note. The policy does not permit multi brand retailing.

The approvals to Reebok and Adidas have been granted in 1995 and 1996 respectively. In both the cases, the Board had approved more than 51% share percentage stake.

Any violation of FIPB approval or conditions mentioned therein would be a violation of FEMA. Such cases get investigated by Enforcement Directorate like any other FEMA violations.

Insurance for agricultural sector

472. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on Crop Insurance had suggested Government to introduce insurance in agriculture sector, subsidise the insurance premium for farmers; and exempt agricultural products and agriculture insurance companies from Service Tax;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to introduce 'Weather Insurance' under agriculture insurance on the lines of developed countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

State-wise GDP

473. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the State-wise State Gross Domestic Product in the country, agriculture, industry and other sectors, separately?